



BROKEN PROMISES

Typhoon Haiyan and the UN Climate Change Conference

By ELIYA AHMAD, age 12



EU HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION

A massive typhoon hit the Philippines on November 8, 2013, destroying homes in countless villages.

A massive typhoon hit the Philippines on November 8, 2013. As one of the strongest on record, Supertyphoon Haiyan orphaned many children, separated many others from their families, and destroyed villages and countless homes. The water level rose drastically, sweeping away people and buildings alike.

Three days later, at the 19th Annual United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP19), representatives from all over the world gathered in Warsaw, Poland, to discuss climate change and how to prevent it. Naderev "Yeb" Saño, a representative from the Philippines, spoke up, saying that denying the existence of climate change or the connection between climate change and storms like Supertyphoon Haiyan was pointless, since countries all over the world are feeling the effects of melting sea ice and rising sea level.



EMMA BIERMANN OF 350.ORG

COP19 Philippines representative Naderev "Yeb" Saño stands with youth delegates. He pledged to fast until a solution for the changing climate was decided.

During the typhoon, there were winds of 195 miles per hour. According to Saño, the storm "was so strong that if there was a Category 6,* it would have fallen squarely in that box." The casualties so far stand at more than 6,000 people dead, with an additional 1,800 missing or unaccounted for. According to the United Nations, 14 million people were affected (almost twice as many people as live in New York City), including 1.8 million children who were displaced and separated from their families when the storm hit. Towns have been flattened into heaps of rubble, and even now that the storm is over, many of the towns that had been hit the hardest in the typhoon are having trouble getting

supplies such as food and water.

At the climate change conference, Saño pledged to fast** until a solution for the changing climate was decided. He did this in solidarity with the people of his country, who are struggling to find enough food to survive, and for his brother, who was busy helping to rescue people in the villages the storm had hit hardest and had not eaten in three days. Immediately, many people joined him on the fast, agreeing that a result needed to come from the talks.

The Philippines is not the only place that is or will soon be feeling the impacts of the changing climate. All over the world, temperatures have risen, leading to an increase in tropical storms and a rising sea level. "The climate crisis is madness... we can stop this madness right here in Warsaw," Saño said. "We cannot sit and stay helpless staring at this international climate stalemate. It is now time to raise ambition and take action."

Despite Saño's passionate words, environmental groups and youth delegates at the conference found the talks to be so unproductive that they walked out of the conference to show their disappointment over the lack of action taken. Anjali Appadurai, a youth delegate who started attending the conferences as a high school student, told *Democracy Now!*, "We're not abandoning the U.N., we're just abandoning this COP, because it's just gotten so bad." After 20 years of negotiations, she and fellow activists are ready to see real change.

*Storms are ranked based on intensity, with Category 5 as the most severe.

**Fast: To choose not to eat to show support for a cause.

Youth delegates at the COP19 in Warsaw, Poland, show their frustration with the conference.



CONNECTED VOICES



Meet... **Lluís** from Barcelona, Spain

Name: Lluís Creus Guerra

Age: 12

Lives In: Sant Cugat del Vallès
outside of Barcelona, Spain

Languages Spoken: Catalan,
Spanish and English

Parents' Jobs: His father is an
economist (an economics expert) and his
mother is a gemologist (a gem expert).

Favorite Food: Soup

Favorite Subject in School: Science

Favorite Animal: Chameleon

Favorite Activities: Playing tennis
and saxophone

Favorite Flower: Rose

**What He Wants to Be When
He Grows Up:** A biochemist

A Little About My Town: I live in
a small suburb of Barcelona called
Sant Cugat del Vallès, which has lots
of green spaces and gardens. It also has
a historical town center which surrounds
a medieval monastery.



MARCOS ON FLICKR

Spain at a Glance

Capital of Spain: Madrid

Population: 46.7 million

Languages Spoken: While Spanish is
the official language all over the country,
Catalan, Gallego, Euskara and Aranés are
co-official languages in certain regions.

Religions: 71% Roman Catholic,
24.1% nonreligious, 4.6% other

Geography: Spain is a country with
many identities. Located to the south
of France on the Iberian Peninsula,
Spain has been ruled by various groups,
including the Roman Empire and the
Moors of North Africa. By the 15th
century, Spain was a unified country and
began colonizing Latin America in order
to extend its empire.

1,500

The number of Walmart store locations where workers held Black Friday protests to demand increased wages and more working hours.

nation&world

Middle School Choice 101

By ADEDAYO PERKOVICH, age 10



The middle school application process in New York City aims to help you choose the right school for you. This system is supposed to pressure schools with lower test scores to improve by making them compete for the interest of kids and parents. “The

ultimate goal is to create great schools,” said Marc Sternberg, a deputy chancellor for New York City’s Education Department.

However, parent Janine Sopp finds it “challenging, exhausting, eye-opening and confusing.” She added, “I also do not think that this process is fair. Even signing up for a tour is a ‘first come, first

serve’ process... Parents are fighting for the few spots in the ‘best’ schools.”

At the beginning of the process, the Department of Education (DOE) sends you a list of all the schools you’re eligible for so that you can rank them according to which ones you like best. Certain schools require auditions, interviews or tests in order to rank applicants. While some students prepare

with private tutoring, many cannot afford this, which creates inequality.

“It puts undue pressure on the children, and it doesn’t really assess them for the whole person that they are,” PS 58 parent, Stephanie Tooman-Dieme, said.

At some schools you choose a concentration, like dance, drama, science or writing. Some argue that this is too young for kids to make such an important decision. In the end, the DOE tries to match you with the school that ranked you the highest and the school that you ranked the highest.

“At first it seems like the kids’ role is important because we are the ones being assessed, but then at a point, it’s just the schools and the DOE that decide where we go,” fifth grade student Eoin Riley-Duffy said.



JENNIFER COGSWELL CITY YEAR

While some students can prepare themselves for standardized tests with private tutoring, many cannot afford this, which creates inequality.

Seeking Justice for Renisha McBride

By ALEJANDRA PAULINO, age 12



On November 2, 2013, Renisha McBride, a 19-year-old African American woman, was killed by 54-year-old homeowner Theodore Wafer after she knocked on his door in a suburb of Detroit, Mich. McBride had had a car accident, and her family says they believe she was looking for help. Wafer says he thought McBride was breaking into his home. He shot her in the head through a screen door.

Wafer was charged with second degree murder and manslaughter. A judge ruled that there is enough evidence that he had other options besides shooting McBride. For example, he could have called the police. Wafer is scheduled to go to trial this January.

Renisha McBride’s family is seeking justice. In a public statement, her mother said, “I can’t imagine what that man feared from her. I would like to know why.”

In a statement given to the *Los Angeles Times*, the NAACP* made connections between McBride’s death and the shooting of Trayvon Martin in Florida in February 2012. Martin, a 17-year-old African American boy, was killed by a neighborhood watchman. The watchman said he killed Martin in self-defense. Martin, like Renisha McBride, didn’t have a weapon. Martin’s death “continues to haunt

many in the African American community,” said the NAACP.

In the days that followed the shooting of Renisha McBride, people in Detroit took to the streets in protest. In an interview with the *New York Times*, LaToya Henry, of the Detroit branch of the NAACP, suggested the killing of McBride may have been driven by racism, “because this was a young black woman in a neighborhood that is predominantly white.”

***NAACP:** the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, an African-American civil rights organization.



ALL VOICES

In the days that followed the shooting of Renisha McBride, people in Detroit took to the streets in protest.

indykids!

Phone: (212) 592-0116

E-mail: info@indykids.org

Website: www.indykids.org

Mail: IndyKids

P.O. Box 2281

New York, NY 10163

Published in print five times a year in
September, November, January, March
and May; Website updated once a month
Issue #43 • Printed January 10, 2014
ISSN: 1943-1031

WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. **IndyKids** is funded through donations and grants.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

The supporters and readers of **IndyKids**; New York Community Trust Councilmember Daniel Dromm, New York City Cultural Affairs, Bay and Paul Foundation, Broadway United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries, The Wolf Baumer Family, Mr. Kimber, The Independent, Reel Works, DreamYard, DCTV
Congratulations to the Wolf-Bauer family on their new arrival!

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact **IndyKids**! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

VOLUNTEERS

Design: Mike Newton

IndyKids Team: Amal Abbass, Toi Sin Arvidsson, Mike Burke, Owen Davis, Todd Eaton, GuerruntZ, Jyothi Natarajan, Malik Nickens, Kristin Oliver, Isis Phillips, Diana Raimondi, Nancy Ryerson, Katie Schlechter, Bonnie Singer, Amanda Vender

Mentors: Amal Abbass, Anita Aboulafia, Isabel Abrams, Hannah Aranoff, Toi Sin Arvidsson, Angela Barbuti, Chisom Olajide, Alexis Jacobs, Patrice Johnson, Scott Luxor, Malik Nickens, Stephanie Realegeno, Nancy Ryerson, Claudia Sader, Scott Sheu, Bonnie Singer, Jonathan Tupas

Editors: Sarah Collins, Tom English, Vasiliki Gliagias, Felicite Fallon, Malik Nickens, Laura Grow-Nyberg, Katie Madges, Liane Martorano, Jyothi Natarajan, Nancy Ryerson, Kathy Schlechter, Katie Schlechter, Bonnie Singer

Donate!



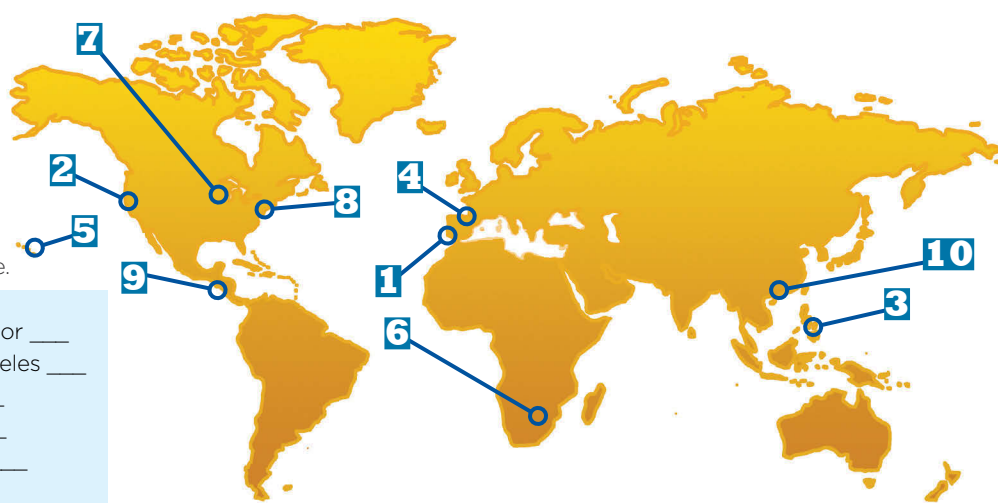
IndyKids does not accept advertising income or corporate sponsorship—instead we rely on dedicated supporters and readers like you. Your donation will make it possible for **IndyKids** to continue to publish our free, nationally distributed newspaper and to develop the next generation of young journalists trained in our Kid Reporter Program. Every donation makes a difference! Mail your tax-deductible donation to:

IndyKids, P.O. Box 2281, New York, NY 10163.
or donate online at **www.IndyKids.org**

Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| a) The Philippines ____ | f) El Salvador ____ |
| b) Warsaw ____ | g) Los Angeles ____ |
| c) Barcelona ____ | h) Maui ____ |
| d) Detroit ____ | i) China ____ |
| e) South Africa ____ | j) Queens ____ |



Transgender Students Battle for Their Rights

By OMAR HASSAN ALI-BADIA, age 10



California is the first state to pass a law that gives transgender students the right to get involved in all school activities and to choose the bathroom they want to use. A transgender person is born one biological sex but identifies as a different gender; for example, a baby born female may grow up to identify as a man, or vice versa.

The law went into effect on January 1, 2014, but is in danger of being repealed (cancelled) since opponents have been gathering signatures to overturn it. They claim that the language within the law is too general and that it will sacrifice the privacy rights of a majority of students for the sake of a small group. If approved, the petition to repeal the law could be up for a vote in the November 2014 elections.

John Santa, a fifth-year psychology major, expressed understanding toward those who might oppose the new law, especially where it concerns middle school and high school students. "Sharing facilities probably wouldn't be a big deal for younger students, but once students are older, it becomes more complicated for everyone involved," Santa told *The Highlander*. "Maybe a better solution would be having single occupancy unisex restrooms for the students uncomfortable using the



JOLSONGS

California is the first state to pass a law that gives transgender students the right to get involved in all school activities and to choose the bathroom they want to use.

facilities of a certain gender."

Ashton Lee, a 16-year-old transgender boy from Manteca, Calif., has been a strong supporter of the bill and says, "It just feels better than having to be the kid that uses the staff bathroom or being the boy in the girls bathroom or not being able to use it at all."

John O'Connor, executive director of Equality California, which co-sponsored the bill, said, "Protecting this law is our number one priority, and we will put everything we've got into it."

How Did the Panther Cross the Road?

By YUUKI REAL, age 13



Roadkill claims lives of an estimated one million wild animals every day in the United States, according to the Humane Society. The problem is especially devastating for endangered species, since even a few deaths can push them toward extinction. For example, in 2012 in South Florida, 19 Florida panthers were killed on the road, out of 100 to 160 cats currently left in the wild.

Road collisions also cause problems for humans in the form of injuries and expensive damage to vehicles and property. In fact, Americans spend about \$8 billion each year on vehicle-animal collisions. One solution to this problem is to build wildlife crossings, special bridges and tunnels that go over and under highways allowing animals to safely cross to the other side. Ted Zoli, a bridge engineer, estimates that if we took just a quarter of the collision costs and used the money to build 200 animal crossings a year, the problem of road kill would disappear within a generation.

In the Netherlands, more than 600 tunnels have been installed, helping to save the endangered European badger. Wildlife crossings are also becoming more common in the United States and Canada,



ADAM FAGAN

Roadkill is especially devastating for endangered species, since even a few deaths can push them toward extinction.

increasing bear, moose, deer, wolf and elk populations, as well as others.

In Southern Florida, wildlife underpasses were first installed in 2010. Matthew Schwartz, executive director of the South Florida Wildlands Association, is a supporter of the wildlife underpass for Florida panthers. According to Schwartz, road collisions are the main cause of death for the panthers, coupled with the dramatic loss of habitat due to new construction projects and land development. In an interview with *IndyKids*, Schwartz explained, "What's most important is not to develop panther habitats [for human use] any more."

newsbriefs



SUSAN MELKISETHIAN

"Stop Watching Us" Rally in Washington, D.C.

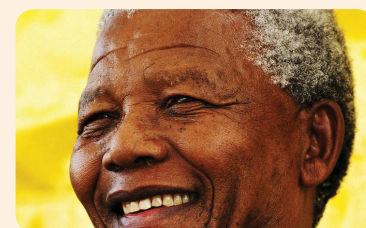


By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 11

A coalition of organizations and companies called StopWatching.U.S. held a "Rally Against Mass Surveillance" in Washington, D.C. on October 26, 2013. They delivered a petition demanding that Congress end the National Security Administration's surveillance of people in the United States, arguing that it is unconstitutional. Many organizations, like the American Civil Liberties Union, and people with different political opinions, supported the rally because they want the U.S. government to be held accountable for the NSA's actions.

Death of Nelson Mandela

By SADIE PARKER, age 11



PRENSIENDARD

On December 5, 2013, Nelson Mandela, 95, passed away quietly. A founding member of the African National Congress, he earned worldwide attention when he spent 27 years in prison for protesting against the brutal apartheid system that divided black and white people in his country. When released from prison, Mandela moved his nation into democracy and became South Africa's first black president.



Black Friday Protests at Walmart

By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 10



BOB SIMPSON



Walmart employees and their supporters protested at 1,500 store locations in cities nationwide on Black Friday 2013 to demand increased wages and more working hours. They came out in huge numbers despite the fact that Walmart has fired striking workers in the past. Marc Bowers worked at Walmart for eight years before he was fired after participating in a strike. He is back protesting again. "If you let people know what's going on, they'll get involved too," he said.

the POWER of LANGUAGE



PHOTO: Penn State News

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas wrote an article in the *New York Times Magazine* titled “My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant” in an effort to spark a conversation about using the term “illegal” to describe a person.

Dropping the “I-Word”

By NYLU AVERY BERNSTAYN, age 8



People cross national borders every day. Some of them are undocumented, or do not possess the paperwork the government says is required to live in the country they are settling in. There is a debate in the United States over what to call such immigrants. “Illegal,” one of the terms used to describe undocumented immigrants, refers to an activity, not a human being. Immigrant rights activists say the term makes people feel **dehumanized**. Some say it is racist and inaccurate.

In September 2010, Race Forward, a nonprofit social justice organization, launched the “Drop the I-Word” campaign. They are calling for people to stop using the word “illegal” to describe immigrants. Dehumanizing language can lead to violence. In 2008, Marcelo Lucero, an Ecuadorean immigrant, was assaulted and killed in Patchogue, NY, by an attacker who called him an “illegal.”

Some newspapers have already dropped the “I-word” and are replacing it with what they believe are more accurate terms like “undocumented” or “unauthorized.” Others, like the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, are choosing not to drop it. “[We] have to make those decisions for journalistic reasons alone,” said *New York Times* associate managing editor Philip B. Corbett, “based on what we think best informs our readers.”

Jose Antonio Vargas is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who started Define America, a campaign to help immigrants. In 2011, he wrote an article in the *New York Times Magazine* titled “My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant” in an effort to spark a conversation about using the term “illegal” to describe a person.

“Like countless other undocumented people, particularly young ones who’ve grown up in the United States and call this country our home, I outed myself to be seen as a human being who is more than my immigration status,” he said.

Introduction by KATIE SCHLECHTER, IndyKids Staff

You’ve heard the phrase, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” In daily life, however, this does not seem to be true. Words have power to cause harm from a single comment. Moreover, the use of certain words by a society over time can also cause deep pain and even contribute to existing prejudice.

Language is also constantly changing, and along with it, the meaning behind words evolves. A word that was common 50 years ago may lead someone to feel discriminated against today. The terms discussed here are currently at the center of a nationwide debate involving journalists, activists, community members and groups who have experienced long histories of discrimination in the United States. This discussion revolves around the importance of asking tough questions about the meaning and history behind the words that we use every day.

What’s in a Name? History vs. the Washington, D.C. NFL Team

By ISABEL MODELL-KOWALSKI, age 12



The NFL team the “Washington Redskins” is facing controversy over its name. The Oneida Indian Nation says that the term “redskins” is racist and has petitioned the football team’s owner Daniel Snyder to change the name. However, Snyder has rejected their requests.

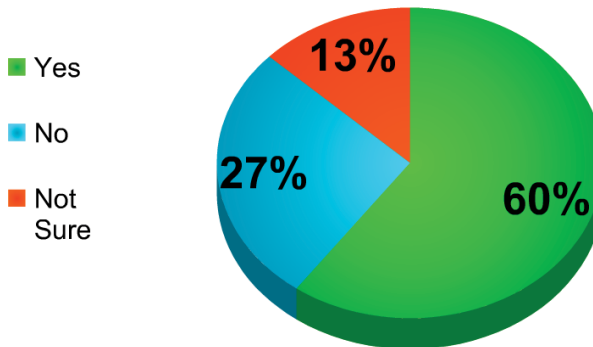
Ray Halbritter, the Oneida Indian Nation chairperson, stated, “As this country’s first people, we deserve simply to be treated as what we are: Americans.” He says that the term excludes and stereotypes Native American people, and is similar to the “N-word” used to degrade African Americans. The term “redskins” appeared during the early conflicts between European colonists and Native Americans. When the U.S. government wanted to make room for westward expansion, they passed the Indian Removal Act of 1830, **systematically** forcing Native Americans onto small **reservations**, usually on the worst patches of land.

Despite this history and the Oneida Indian Nation’s complaint, current team owner Snyder refuses to change the name. “After 81 years, the team name, ‘Redskins,’ continues to hold the memories and meaning of where we came from, who we are, and who we want to be in years to come,” he said.

The Oneida Indian Nation responded, saying, “You need to get over the idea that this name is not racist just because you say it isn’t. That’s not the act of a community leader.”

While the issue is controversial, the history of the term and the U.S. government’s conquest of Native Americans is unquestionable. It illustrates how words can be considered harmless to some people while degrading to those who feel tied to their deeper meanings.

If someone referred to a Native American person as a “redskin,” do you think that Native American person would have the right to feel offended?



Oneida Indian Nation Poll of 500 adults from October 2013

Glossary of terms **Dehumanize:** to treat someone as though he or she is not a human being. **Reservation:** an area of land run by a Native American tribe under the U.S. government’s Bureau of Indian Affairs. **Systematic:** something done in an organized way for a specific purpose. In this case, for the purpose of removing Native Americans from land that the U.S. government wanted to use.

67Sueños is a migrant youth-run organization in the San Francisco Bay Area. Together with their community, they completed a 100 by 30 foot mural to tell the stories of migrant youth in the United States. The mural states, “No human being is illegal, and each one has a dream. 67% of migrant youth: • are pushed out of high school • are ignored by the media • are excluded from immigration reform”



MURAL: 67Sueños



PAUL PENGUNBUSH

China's Jade Rabbit Lands on the Moon



By IRATI EGORHO DIEZ, age 11

On December 14, 2013, China's Jade Rabbit probe landed on the moon's Sinus Iridium, a volcanic plate more commonly known as the Bay of Rainbows. The six-wheeled robotic vehicle will operate on the moon for three months, relying on solar panels and special heating units. The Jade Rabbit is the first mission of this kind to the moon in nearly 40 years. The Jade Rabbit will use ground-penetrating radars to collect samples of lunar soil and send back photos to earth.

Teen Discovers Dino Fossil



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By JULIANA BERROA, age 12

On a school trip to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah in 2009, 17-year-old Kevin Terris made an amazing discovery. While exploring the national monument with his class, he noticed a jutting rock that turned out to be a fossil of a baby duck-billed dinosaur. While digging at the site, scientists finally discovered that the duck-billed dinosaur had died before the crest on its head had even formed. The fossil is on display at the Alf Museum in California.

Strange Asteroid Resembles Lawn Sprinkler



SN3GHEAD

Pan-STARRS survey telescope in Maui, Hawaii.



By KALANI CHEN-HAYES, age 10

In August 2013, NASA found a strange asteroid with six comet-like trails of dust resembling a rotating lawn sprinkler. Asteroids are small rocky bodies that orbit the sun and usually only appear as points of light when viewed from earth without a telescope. This one, named P/2013 P5, originally appeared as a fuzzy object when it was seen in Maui, Hawaii, using Pan-STARRS, a survey telescope. Scientists say the strange appearance is due to the asteroid's surface breaking apart and releasing dust.

2,272,771

The total population of New York City's borough of Queens. That's larger than the population of Houston, Texas, the fourth largest city in the United States.

culture&activism

Connecting Worlds Through Photojournalism

By SAMUEL MARTINEZ, age 12



Photojournalist Donna DeCesare's newly released bilingual book, *Unsettled / Desasosiego: Children in a World of Gangs*, uses photography to capture lives caught up in gang violence. She took her photos both in Central America during and after the civil wars of the 1980s, and in the refugee communities in Los Angeles, Calif., that resulted from them.

The book also tells the stories behind the photographs which show the effect of the civil wars in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua on gang members in the United States, as well as in their home countries.

Through her work, DeCesare learned that gang violence is often both a symptom and a cause of the trauma that the young subjects of her photos had to deal with. She sees a purpose for this activist photojournalism, "We need to see these young people as they truly are—children who have been burdened with so much that is painful from an early age and whose fragile hopes and dreams are being thwarted," she said in the *New York Times* blog, "Lens."

DeCesare is not the only person doing this type of work. Photojournalism is often used as a form of activism to spread ideas and tell stories. Lourdes Jeannette, a photographer born in Puerto Rico, recently began



DONNA DECESARE

Through her work, DeCesare learned that gang violence is often both a symptom and a cause of the trauma that the young subjects of her photos had to deal with.

photographing gang violence in her family, trying to expose that way of life and its overall effect on her family and society.

In an interview with *FotoEvidence*, DeCesare explained her relationship with photojournalism: "I see journalism and photography as a bridge—as a way to cross from one reality to another—that can alter your perception but it can also alter perceptions both ways."

Picture Perfect: Kids and Teens Sharing Their Worlds Through Photography



By DAPHNE KNOUSE FRENZER, age 12

Kids don't often get the chance to express themselves publicly. Through photography, kids and teenagers are finding a new way to document and experience their own lives and communities. Today, non-profit organizations and even social media can give kids a way to explore their worlds with a camera.

One such nonprofit is 100cameras, which travels around the world arming kids in marginalized* communities with cameras and showing them how to express themselves through photos. Through their photos, they can capture many different aspects of their environment and culture in places like Cuba and India. The pictures that the students take are sold and the profits go toward community projects in their home countries. "They [the students] were so forward thinking... just really excited to help their homes and show the world their home," said Angela Bullock, co-founder of the organization.

Another program is the Red Hook Photo Project, which provides kids with cameras to document and share their world. Started in 2006, this project gives kids ages 14 to 18 in Red Hook, an underserved neighborhood in Brooklyn, NY, a chance to take pictures and share them at a show at the end of an eight-week program.

Lastly, a new way that some kids are expressing themselves with photography is through Instagram,



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS & BIGSHOT CAMERA

Today, non-profit organizations and even social media can give kids a way to explore their worlds with a camera.

a photo-sharing app that has 150 million users worldwide. "Instagram has helped me show how I feel about the world," says seventh grade student, Sara Fellman.

Through all of these methods, kids get to choose where to point their camera lens, which gives them the power to create images that help others to see their lives from their own eyes.

***Marginalized:** when a person, group of people or community does not have their needs met and identities recognized as much as those of others in the same society.

Around the Borough: Queens

New York City is divided into five big neighborhoods called *boroughs*. The five boroughs are Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island. Each one has a very distinct personality and could almost be its own city. For this issue, this page is dedicated to stories from **Queens**.

yourturn

Queens Kids Talk About Climate Change

During two weeks in November 2013, people from all over the world met for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Warsaw, Poland. At the same time, some countries, like the Philippines, are already experiencing the devastating effects of climate change. *IndyKids* asked kids in **Queens**, "If you were president, what would you do to decrease pollution and stop climate change?"



I would say "no more cars" because [they] can pollute with gas coming out. [I would allow] only pedaling cars.
Miles Vender-Wilson, age 6



If I was the president, I would tell people to use their cars less and use bicycles. I also would tell people to be careful where they throw their garbage.
Evileni Marte, age 11



I would use solar panel cars that drive in any type of weather and they only go up to 65 miles per hour, which is the speed limit.
Adrian Llerena, age 6



If I were president I would decrease pollution by creating eco-friendly things, like eco-friendly cars, buses, trains etc. I would also convince people to ride bikes and walk. Also I would tell people to use resources wisely so everyone can make the world a better place!
Adriana Maria Gugliucciello, age 10

Someday, you could be a Photographer, just like Gerard Gaskin

By SADIE PARKER, age 11

Do you love taking photographs? Have you ever thought about being a professional photographer? *IndyKids* reporter Sadie Parker asks Gerard H. Gaskin what it's like to see the world through the lens of a camera.

Sadie Parker: How did you start taking photographs? Can you tell us about some of your earliest favorite photos you took?

Gerard Gaskin: I started taking photographs when I was 18 years old. My mother bought me a camera for my 18th birthday. I then started going to a community college in Queens, NY, called Queensborough Community College and started taking photography classes there. That's where I met my mentor, Jules Allen... On my own, I took images of friends when we hung out together.

How did you learn to improve your photography?

I think you learn by doing; so the more pictures you take, the better you become. I also think that you should read a lot.

So I read books by authors like bell hooks, V.S. Naipaul, Frantz Fanon and Lionel Tiger. Reading broadens your understanding of the world, and their writings influenced the content and the messages that my images tried to convey. I also learnt a lot from my mentor, watching him take pictures, seeing the kind of images that he took.

What inspires your subject matter? For example, you've recently published a book of photographs documenting House Ballroom, a long-held cultural tradition in some black and Latino LGBTQ communities. Why House Ballroom?

I just love taking photographs in and of spaces that the average American usually doesn't venture into. I feel that I am the middle person who brings hidden communities to the world through pictures.

What do you think makes a great photograph?

A great photograph is an image that talks to you, asks you questions and gives you answers. It informs you, it gives you information, and it also talks to your heart.



ROBERT TAYLOR

Farewell to 5Pointz: A Queens Landmark

By MALIK NICKENS, *IndyKids* Staff

From curving and flowing letters to beautiful murals and colorful characters, graffiti is a form of street art that uses the entire world as a canvas. Often graffiti is viewed as vandalism, because the act of drawing on, or tagging, a wall without permission is illegal. "Legal havens," where graffiti and street artists are allowed to paint, are slowly disappearing because of limited space and city development.

One such haven* was whitewashed (covered in white paint) on November 18, 2013, to prepare for its demolition. 5Pointz in Long Island City, Queens, is a five-story industrial warehouse that has been drawing visitors from all over the world for over a decade. In 2002, Jonathan Cohen approached the warehouse's owner, Jerry Wolkoff, requesting to use it as a space for graffiti artists. With Wolkoff's permission, Cohen, a graffiti artist known as Meres One, has overseen 5Pointz. His project has become a cultural icon, attracting street artists from all over the world, including Banksy, a British artist whose politically-themed stencil art sells for millions of dollars.

The fight to save 5Pointz has been a tough one. Despite strong support from the local community and the fact that 5Pointz has become a tourist attraction, there has been no positive support from the city. The whitewashing was done at night, and Wolkoff has stated that by doing so he saved the artists from having to see their artwork destroyed when the building is torn down to make room for two new high rise luxury apartment buildings.

Supporters of 5Pointz gathered the morning of November 19, after news of the defacing spread. Dazed, confused and many in tears, they



FORSAKEN FOTOS

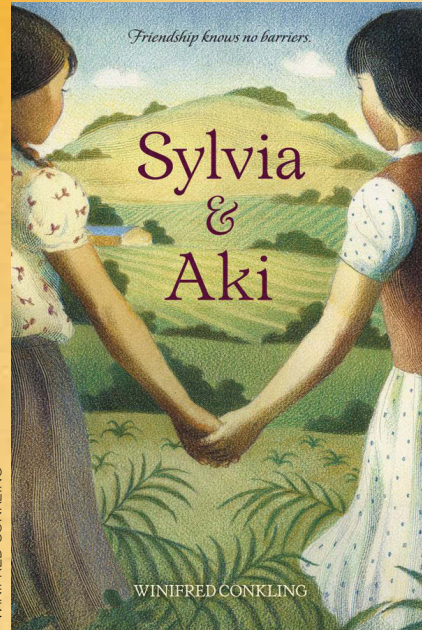
Despite strong support from the local community and the fact that 5Pointz has become a tourist attraction, there has been no positive support from the city.

mourned the loss of a haven for street artists.

"Heartbreaking," remarked a graffiti artist known as Just. "This is not just about graffiti — it's about the unity of people who met here from all over the world."

***Haven:** a place that is safe

BOOK REVIEW: SYLVIA AND AKI



By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 11

Sylvia & Aki, by Winifred Conkling, takes place in Westminster, Calif., and Poston War Relocation Center, Ariz., during WWII (1941-1945). It is based on the lives of two real children, Aki Munemitsu and Sylvia Mendez.

Aki, an American citizen of Japanese descent, was attending Westminster school in California when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and all families of Japanese descent were forced to relocate to internment camps. Aki's family had to leave their home and belongings. Poston was very crowded, the dormitories had little privacy and people didn't like the food. Aki and her family lived there for four years, even though her family never committed crimes and were loyal to the United States.

Sylvia was an American citizen of Mexican descent. Sylvia's family moved into Aki's house during WWII and worked Aki's parents' farm. Sylvia and her siblings wanted to attend Westminster School, but the school board would not allow them to because they were Hispanic. Sylvia's father fought for their right to a good education. He filed a lawsuit against the school board. Sylvia's father won the case and *Mendez v. Westminster* paved the way for *Brown v. Board of Education*,

which ended school segregation for all American children.

I highly recommend *Sylvia & Aki*. *IndyKids* readers will like this book because it talks about American history and racism in the United States. It is important to know what happened so that we can continue to fight against racism and anti-immigrant feelings in the United States today.

ORIGINAL CARTOON BY CRISTINA BERROA



By CRISTINA BERROA, age 9



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



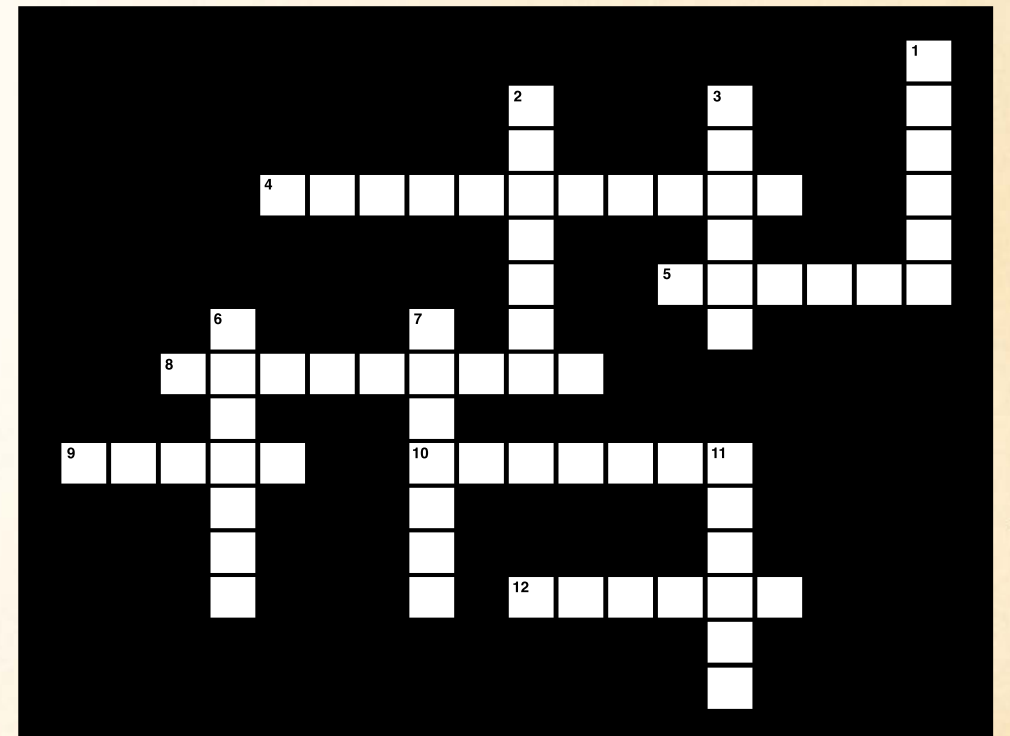
By ELIYA AHMAD, age 12

DOWN

- 1 A small machine used to take photographs.
- 2 A strong tropical storm that usually forms over a large body of relatively warm water.
- 3 New York City's easternmost borough (large neighborhood). The 5Pointz building is located in this borough.
- 6 A large type of wildcat that is endangered in Florida partly due to being hit by cars when trying to cross highways.
- 7 The general type of weather that an area of the world experiences at certain times of the year.
- 11 See 9 across

ACROSS

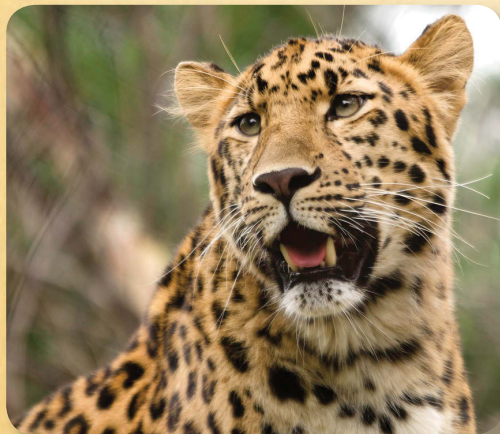
- 4 A Southeast Asian country located in the Pacific Ocean that is made up of over 7,000 islands.
- 5 A Native American tribe that is petitioning Washington, D.C.'s football team to change its name.
- 8 A city in the Northeastern part of Spain where the primary languages are Catalan and Spanish.
- 9 Together with 11 down, 10 across's home country
- 10 Famous leader of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. After going to prison for 27 years for his activism, he was elected president of South Africa.
- 12 The remains of ancient animal or plant material found in rocks and dirt. 17-year-old Kevin Terris discovered one made from the bones of a baby dinosaur.



GETTING WILD WITH THE AMUR LEOPARD



By KALANI CHEN-HAYES, age 10



Amur leopards once lived throughout parts of China, Korea and Russia, but now they can only be found in a small part of northern Russia near the Chinese border.

Amur leopards are nocturnal and solitary carnivores. They prefer to be by themselves rather than in a pack. These beauties have thick yellowish coats covered in widely spread rosettes (spots) with thick black borders. Their long legs help them to walk in the snow. They can live up to 15 years in the wild and 20 years in captivity, but have been classified as critically endangered since 1996 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. In fact, Amur leopards are the world's most endangered cats since there are fewer than 35 of them left in

the wild. They once lived throughout parts of China, Korea and Russia, but now they can only be found in a small part of northern Russia near the Chinese border. Conservationists are working to save them, but their survival is threatened by hunters who kill them for their fur, as well as the loss of habitat due to land development by humans.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Male Amur leopards weigh between 70 and 106 pounds, and females weigh between 53 and 95 pounds.
- They are 3.5 to 4.5 feet long and 1.5 to 2.5 feet tall at the shoulders, and their tails are about 2.5 to 3 feet long.
- Their litters are small, usually only two or three cubs.
- They hunt different types of deer, as well as smaller animals like badgers, hares and mice.